The Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY®

Fall 2025

Presented by The Graduate School
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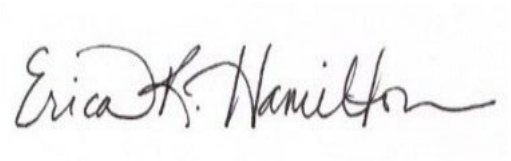
in collaboration with the
Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Dear friends and members of our graduate education community, at the end of each academic semester, we have the great pleasure to honor those students, staff, and faculty who have distinguished themselves in graduate education at Grand Valley State University. The Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence and the Graduate Student Association Faculty Awards are proud GVSU traditions that began in 2006 thanks to the combined efforts of the University Graduate Council and the Graduate Program Directors. The Graduate School and the Graduate Student Association serve as co-sponsors for this event.

The Graduate School Citations recognize excellence in academic performance in several categories. Graduate students are nominated for these awards by staff or faculty members, advisors, graduate program directors, and departmental chairs or school directors. Each recipient receives a certificate of recognition and a graduate honors cord. We are excited to continue for the second year the Jennifer Rose Palm Memorial Award for Excellence in Service to Graduate Education which honors GVSU staff who demonstrate exceptional dedication to supporting graduate students. Additionally, the Graduate Student Association honors members of our graduate faculty who have distinguished themselves in mentoring and supporting our students at Grand Valley. Their noteworthy dedication helps to create a vibrant and engaged learning community.

Grand Valley State University is extremely proud of the accomplishments of these graduate students, staff, and faculty members. I commend each of our award winners and wish them a very successful future.

Congratulations!



Erica Hamilton, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Distributed Learning
Dean of the Graduate School
Grand Valley State University

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Congratulations to Fall 2025
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GRADUATE SCHOOL CITATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

College of Computing

- **Alyssa Adamczak, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**

  Alyssa Adamczak is recognized for her exceptional academic achievements, maintaining a flawless 4.0 GPA that reflects her intelligence, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. In addition to her academic success, Alyssa served as a Graduate Assistant on a virtual reality seed grant, where she displayed creativity, initiative, and meticulous attention to detail. Her ability to manage complex projects, produce high-quality research, and contribute thoughtfully to scholarly discussions is outstanding. Alyssa's professionalism and scholarly accomplishments exemplify the highest standards of the Health Informatics and Bioinformatics program.

- **Erick Anangwe, Data Science and Analytics**

  Erick is highly regarded for his exceptional academic achievements in the Data Science and Analytics program, maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout his graduate studies. His performance reflects mastery of complex technical concepts, intellectual curiosity, and analytical depth. Erick consistently approaches challenges with enthusiasm for learning and goes beyond course requirements to explore problems more deeply. In addition to his academic excellence, he has contributed significantly to the program community. He also volunteered as a student mentor, guiding incoming students, and assisted with graduate recruiting webinars, where his insights and enthusiasm were invaluable. His leadership, work ethic, and commitment to helping others exemplify the qualities we seek in graduate students.

- **Khiem Nguyen, Applied Computer Science**

  Khiem Nguyen is recognized for his outstanding academic performance, maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA across 30 credits of graduate coursework. He has excelled in multiple courses, including a self-directed project, consistently producing work of the highest quality and demonstrating a strong commitment to learning. For his project, he developed an innovative application integrating cloud computing and web development with Internet of Things concepts—designed for monitoring plant growth using agentic AI behaviors. This project not only met academic requirements but also holds potential for personal use and future commercial or open-source release. Khiem's initiative, technical expertise, and dedication to excellence set him apart as an exceptional student. He is highly deserving of this award and receives the strongest endorsement.

College of Education and Community Innovation

- **Amy Phillips, Criminal Justice**

  Amy is recognized as one of the most outstanding graduate students in the Criminal Justice program. She has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA while balancing multiple roles, including tutoring, working in the writing center, and assisting with the Bellamy Creek Program. Her research on embodiment in the criminal legal system addresses a critical gap in the field, with recent work on carceral labor—such as her paper *Incarcerated Firefighters and the Prison Sensory Vacuum*—showing potential for groundbreaking contributions to criminology. Amy's leadership is evident through her commitment to supporting fellow students and her active involvement in Bellamy Creek, where she provides writing assistance to incarcerated learners. Her academic excellence, research impact, and dedication to service exemplify the highest standards of scholarship and leadership.

- **Matthew Boak, Public Administration**

  Matthew Boak has excelled throughout the Master of Public Administration program, consistently demonstrating academic excellence and a strong commitment to personal growth. Faculty widely recognizes him as an outstanding contributor who enriches classroom discussions and enhances the learning experience for his peers. Beyond academics, Matthew serves as a dedicated public servant, working as a policy advisor for the Michigan Senate and as president of the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education. He brings valuable insights from these roles into the classroom, offering diverse perspectives on public service. His ability to balance rigorous coursework with significant professional and leadership responsibilities reflects exceptional dedication and integrity. Matthew exemplifies the highest standards of scholarship, leadership, and service, making him a highly deserving candidate for this award.

- **Megan Herr, Health Administration**

  Megan has demonstrated exceptional academic performance throughout the Master of Health Administration program, maintaining a strong GPA while balancing multiple responsibilities. In addition to her studies, she works at a local physician's office and serves as an assistant coach for the GVSU women's volleyball team. Megan is highly regarded by faculty and peers for her engagement both inside and outside the classroom. She consistently exhibits professionalism, teamwork, and leadership, setting high standards for herself and those around her. Her technical knowledge, interpersonal skills, and ability to lead effectively make her a model of an emerging healthcare professional. Megan's dedication and versatility exemplify the qualities this award seeks to honor.

- **Leya Shekanena, Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration**

  Leya exemplifies the highest standards of graduate scholarship through her intellect, disciplined work ethic, and consistent engagement in all aspects of her academic work. Her written assignments demonstrate clarity, depth, and critical insight, far exceeding expectations for master's-level study. Leya skillfully connects theory to lived experience and approaches ideas with originality and intellectual rigor. In the classroom, she is an engaged learner and a thoughtful contributor, enriching discussions with critical perspectives while listening and responding with respect. Her ability to challenge assumptions with courage and care elevates the learning environment for all. Her resilience, integrity, and commitment to learning distinguish her as one of the program's most outstanding students.

College of Health Professions

- **Erica Borsum, Physician Assistant Studies**

  Erica has consistently demonstrated academic excellence and a strong commitment to the values of her program. Her intellectual curiosity, clinical expertise, and passion for patient care set her apart as a student who exceeds expectations. Her outstanding GPA reflects diligence and drive, while her written work and presentations showcase advanced analytical skills, critical thinking, and evidence-based reasoning. Erica stands out as a leader in both individual and group settings, balancing confidence with humility and often mentoring her peers. She elevates discussions, fosters collaboration, and promotes shared learning with professionalism and integrity. Beyond academics, Erica's engagement with the GVSU community and her leadership in the classroom highlight her dedication to service. She exemplifies empathy, resilience, and a lifelong commitment to improving health outcomes, making her highly deserving of this recognition.

- **Lauren Brown, Speech-Language Pathology**

  Lauren is recognized for her exceptional academic and clinical performance during her graduate program, maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. She consistently demonstrates strong clinical skills, earning frequent praise from preceptors for her professionalism and quality of care. In the classroom, Lauren is thoughtful, articulate, and kind, making her a valued presence among peers and faculty. Her dedication to both her coursework and her clients reflects an admirable level of commitment and integrity. Lauren's ability to combine academic excellence with compassionate clinical practice sets her apart as an outstanding student. She exemplifies the qualities of a skilled and caring professional and is highly deserving of this award and recognition.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- **Flavia Marcello, Cell and Molecular Biology**

  Flavia has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement in the Master's program in Cell and Molecular Biology, maintaining an excellent GPA despite taking a semester off to support her family in Italy. Alongside her coursework, she served as a graduate assistant for a pilot program introducing Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences in regenerative neurobiology to Kent ISD and GVSU students. Flavia also contributed to the undergraduate brewing program and played a key role in the department's Molecular Monitoring for Health and the Environment laboratory. In this capacity, she routinely processed and analyzed wastewater samples to screen for pathogenic viruses, showcasing technical skill and attention to detail. Her ability to balance rigorous academics with meaningful research and service reflects her dedication and professionalism. Flavia's consistent success and contributions make her highly deserving of this recognition.

- **Y Hong Nhu Nguyen, Communications**

  Y has distinguished herself as an exceptional scholar with a strong academic record and advanced research skills. She demonstrates expertise in theory, robust methodological knowledge, and cross-cultural communication competencies. Her research spans both social science and humanistic areas of communication, reflecting intellectual breadth and curiosity. Y frequently transforms new ideas into scholarly work, presenting papers at conferences such as GVSU Student Scholars Day and the Central States Communication Association. In an intercultural communication course, she conducted a qualitative study on U.S. students learning Japanese, exploring the cultural dimensions of language acquisition, a project that was both academically significant and practically impactful. Fluent in Japanese, English, and Vietnamese, Y brings unique linguistic and cultural insights to her work. As a graduate student, she also served as a consultant in the GVSU Speech Lab, applying her skills to support peers. Y's dedication, scholarly rigor, and leadership make her highly deserving of this recognition.

Padnos College of Engineering

- **Madison Hinman, Engineering**

  Madison successfully completed her combined BSE/MSE degree in Biomedical Engineering in SS25, defending her thesis titled '*Investigation into Intraocular Pressure Distribution via Computer-Aided Engineering (CAE)'*. Her research explored how pressure is transmitted from the vitreous humor to the retina and its impact on retinal function, offering insights into Space-Associated Neuro-Ocular Syndrome (SANS) in astronauts. Madison earned a competitive grant from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium and NASA for this work, making her one of the few undergraduates in the state to receive such recognition. She is distinguished by her technical expertise, intellectual curiosity, and exceptional communication skills. Madison consistently demonstrates the ability to integrate complex engineering principles with biological systems, validating computational models with physiological relevance. Her innovative approach and research maturity reflect the qualities of a seasoned scholar, making her highly deserving of this award.

GRADUATE SCHOOL CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS
FALL 2025

College of Education and Community Innovation

- **Robin Moore, Criminal Justice**
    - **Thesis Title:** From K-Pop to Hip-Hop: A Comparative Study of Systemic Sexual Abuse in the Global Music Industry

  Robin has distinguished herself in the Master's of Criminal Justice program through rigorous research and exceptional writing. Her thesis, '*From K-Pop to Hip-Hop: A Comparative Study of Systemic Sexual Abuse in the Global Music Industry*', examines power abuse within the music industry in both U.S. and international contexts. This timely and comprehensive work addresses critical issues in criminology, including gender, patriarchy, power, and psychological manipulation, while highlighting victimization and the importance of victims' rights. Robin's research identifies how high-profile sexual violence persists through personal motives for control, systemic institutional failures, and cultural norms shaping accountability. Her exploration of parasocial relationships—one-sided attachments between fans and celebrities—adds an important dimension to understanding public reactions to celebrity offenders. Robin's scholarship is well-researched, insightful, and impactful, making her highly deserving of recognition for academic excellence.

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the persistence of high-profile sexual violence in the global music industry through a comparative analysis of Seung-hyun "Seungri" Lee's *Burning Sun* scandal in South Korea and Sean "Diddy" Combs' legal proceedings in the United States. Guided by Power and Control Theory (PCT) and Routine Activity Theory (RAT), the study explores three central questions: (1) what motivates powerful men to commit acts of sexual violence, (2) how institutions and structures enable such abuse, and (3) how cultural contexts shape accountability. Data were collected from legal filings, media reports, audio-visual material, and scholarly literature, then thematically coded to identify recurring patterns of motivation, institutional complicity, and cultural framing. The findings revealed three central themes: (1) sexual violence was utilized systematically, reinforcing control and influence; (2) institutional actors, ranging from police collusion and corporate denial in South Korea to legal shielding through nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) in the United States, either failed to intervene or actively protected perpetrators; and (3) cultural contexts, from Confucian hierarchy and parasocial fandom in South Korea to celebrity individualism and racialized narratives in the United States, influenced disclosure and accountability. Together, these patterns expose how celebrity capital, institutional failures, and cultural values converge to protect perpetrators and silence victims. Policy recommendations emphasize the need for stricter limits on NDAs, stronger oversight mechanisms, survivor-centered protections, and cultural interventions challenging hegemonic masculinity and celebrity worship. By revealing how privilege and impunity sustain exploitation across contexts, this research contributes to the growing call for accountability and structural reform within the global music industry.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- **Bryce Thomas, Communications**
    - **Thesis Title:** Examining the Relationship Between Law Enforcement and the LGBTQIA+ Community: Applying Communication Accommodation Theory

  Bryce is nominated for the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award for his exceptional work titled '*Examining the Relationship Between Law Enforcement and the LGBTQIA+ Community: Applying Communication Accommodation Theory*'. This timely and multidisciplinary thesis addresses the growing divide between law enforcement and marginalized communities, focusing on strategies to improve communication and equity. Bryce provides a historical overview of policing in the U.S., examines systemic failures, and highlights the unique vulnerabilities of the LGBTQIA+ community. Using the Constant Comparative Method, he synthesized research across multiple disciplines to identify core issues and solutions, emphasizing police training and proactive community engagement. His application of Communication Accommodation Theory, supported by consultation with its originator Dr. Howard Giles, underscores the importance of mindful and respectful communication in reducing conflict. Bryce's scholarship demonstrates intellectual rigor, practical relevance, and a commitment to social justice, making him highly deserving of this award.

ABSTRACT

The relationship between the LGBTQIA+ community and law enforcement in the United States (US) is, and has been for over 50 years, fractured. This research examines how communication behaviors shape both the issues that strain this relationship and the potential solutions needed to mend it. Specifically, communication-focused research from various fields of study was collected with the goals of creating both a multi-disciplinary understanding of this relationship, as well as theory-informed strategies that law enforcement agencies can adopt to improve their relationships with the LGBTQIA+ community. To achieve these goals, the literature that was reviewed was analyzed using a thematic analysis, as well as the Constant Comparative Method, to look for commonly cited problems and solutions regarding this relationship. In doing so, three common communication-centered problems were identified: a lack of LGBTQIA+-specific training for law enforcement, discrimination and harassment from police directed at LGBTQIA+ community members, and a widespread distrust of law enforcement within the LGBTQIA+ community. Additionally, two common communication centered solutions were identified: implementing and requiring LGBTQIA+-specific training for law enforcement and creating genuine community connections through purposeful community engagement. Finally, Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) was applied to the common solutions that emerged from this study. Since CAT can be used to explain, predict, and control future communication interactions, applying it here can help law enforcement make purposeful efforts to improve their communication with the LGBTQIA+ community.

There is no shortage of communication-focused research centered on law enforcement interactions with the public. In fact, literature centered on police interactions with minority communities is plentiful. However, communication-focused scholarship centered specifically on interactions between the LGBTQIA+ community and law enforcement in the US is quite thin. This thesis addresses this gap in research by offering a communication-centered perspective on an area of study that has received limited attention. In doing so, it contributes to ongoing conversations across disciplines and lays the groundwork for future study.

- **Alyssa Smith, Biology – Annis Water Resources Institute**
    - **Thesis Title:** Investigating Food Web Dynamics of Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Using a Novel Stable Isotope Approach

  Alyssa Smith is recognized for her exceptional scholarship and innovative research in the master's program at GVSU. She successfully defended her thesis, '*Investigating Food Web Dynamics of Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Using a Novel Stable Isotope Approach'*, in July 2025. Her work combines stable isotope and trace mercury analysis—a novel technique in wetland ecology—to provide new insights into energy flow within coastal wetland food webs. Alyssa demonstrated leadership throughout the project, from study design and sample collection to advanced Bayesian modeling and data interpretation. Her ability to integrate complex analytical methods with ecological theory reflects scientific maturity and creativity. The quality of her writing and clarity of thought resulted in a thesis now being prepared for publication in *Limnology and Oceanography*. Alyssa's diligence, originality, and commitment to excellence make her highly deserving of the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award.

ABSTRACT

Coastal wetlands of the Great Lakes support abundant populations of fish, invertebrates, and vegetation, though the trophic linkages connecting primary production and lower consumers is not well understood in these systems. We implemented a multiple-tracer approach, pairing traditional food web isotope tracers like carbon (δ13C) and nitrogen (δ15N) with total mercury concentrations (THg). We predicted that filamentous algae would be the dominant energy resource in the diet of lower trophic-level invertebrates in the Grand River Estuary, a network of riverine coastal wetlands adjacent to lake Michigan. In addition, we predicted that adding THg as a tracer would improve the resolution of our food web models. Three basal energy sources were sampled (filamentous algae, emergent macrophytes, submersed macrophytes) along with organic detritus. Aquatic invertebrates were sampled across three functional guilds to represent primary and secondary consumers (amphipods, gastropods, odonates). Our findings suggest that organic detritus is the dominant resource responsible for energetically supporting lower trophic levels in the Grand River estuary, although algae and submersed macrophytes are important secondary resources for primary and secondary consumers, respectively. THg concentrations enhanced the resolution of dietary contribution estimates in MixSIAR models applied to consumer and source data. Isotope biplots revealed that THg concentrations were a more reliable predictor of trophic position than δ15N in GRE sites. This methodology has significant implications for future food web studies in complex ecosystems such as coastal wetlands and demonstrates the novel use of mercury as an ecological tracer.

GRADUATE SCHOOL CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING FINAL PROJECT
Fall 2025

College of Computing

- **Leah Bishop, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**
    - **Project Title:** Autoencoder-Based Non-negative Matrix Factorization for Scalable and Interpretable Single-Cell Analysis

  Leah has demonstrated exceptional technical innovation through her development of novel algorithms for analyzing massive biological datasets from the Human Cell Atlas, which profiles gene expression at single-cell resolution across tens of thousands of donors. Her work, currently in preparation for submission to Bioinformatics, introduces explainable AI methods that enable learning of biological processes and transcriptional gene programs at an unprecedented scale. By integrating traditional dimension reduction techniques with deep learning frameworks, Leah's approach achieves the interpretability of methods such as Non-negative Matrix Factorization while offering the scalability and flexibility of advanced AI models. This research represents a significant advancement in computational biology and positions Leah as a leader in applying cutting-edge technology to complex biological questions.

ABSTRACT

Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF) is a widely-used, explainable dimension reduction technique for analyzing single-cell transcriptomics data, but its computational requirements make it challenging to scale to modern datasets comprising billions of cells. We introduce an Autoencoder-like NMF (AE-NMF) approach that leverages deep learning frameworks and online minibatch updates for superior scalability. We trained a sparse, tied-weights autoencoder on over 60 million human transcriptomes from the CELLxGENE Census and compared its latent factors (gene programs) to those derived from traditional NMF. Our results demonstrate that AE-NMF effectively learns NMF-like factors, with many factors exhibiting a high correlation with their NMF counterparts. Crucially, AE-NMF offers several advantages for biological interpretation: it yields factors with greater sparsity and higher factor orthogonality, and it shows an enhanced ability to capture biologically specific signatures. Specifically, Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) revealed that AE-NMF factors were associated with a higher number of significantly enriched GO terms compared to NMF factors. In conclusion, AE-NMF successfully provides the benefits of traditional NMF analyses—namely, explainable biological insights—while offering significantly improved scalability, making it a powerful tool for analyzing massive single-cell atlases.

- **Michael Irungu, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**
    - **Project Title**: Unified Malaria Microscopy Datasets: Ontology-Driven Dataset Curation for AI Malaria Diagnostics

  Michael Irungu is recognized for his outstanding work on the project *Unified Malaria Microscopy Datasets: Ontology-Driven Dataset Curation for AI Malaria Diagnostics*. His research addresses a critical challenge in AI-driven malaria diagnostics—fragmented, region-specific datasets that introduce bias. Michael curated over 247,000 microscopy images from diverse sources and applied an ontology-based framework to standardize metadata for parasite detection, species identification, and life-stage classification. He converted heterogeneous inputs into consistent PNG images with COCO-JSON annotations and developed a reproducible, bias-aware CNN pipeline with thorough documentation and validation checks. This scalable and rigorously curated resource enables reliable benchmarking and transfer learning, improving diagnostic performance in resource-limited settings. Michael's work provides a strong foundation for future AI-driven parasitology research and exemplifies innovation, precision, and impact.

ABSTRACT

Malaria is a highly contagious disease that remains a global health threat. The World Health Organization estimates over 249 million cases and 608,000 deaths recorded in 2022.1 Twenty-nine countries accounted for 95% of all recorded cases, with four countries, Nigeria (27%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12%), Uganda (5%), and Mozambique (4%), accounting for more than half of these cases.1 Early and accurate diagnosis is necessary, which is often missed due to resource scarcity and diverse diagnostic needs in High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) countries. Deep learning approaches have long been utilized to provide a fast and efficient diagnostic method. However, existing machine learning and deep learning models often suffer from biases due to training on small, region-specific datasets, leading to diagnostic inaccuracies, especially in underrepresented populations.2 This study aims to curate and analyze a diverse collection of publicly available datasets, comprising over 247,000 images from varied sources and regions. We develop a novel ontology-based framework to standardize metadata across tasks such as species detection, parasite identification, and life-stage classification, allowing for equitable dataset aggregation and bias mitigation. Different image and annotation types are unified into PNG format and COCO JSON, respectively, facilitating a robust convolutional neural network (CNN) pipeline. This methodology addresses current limitations in dataset heterogeneity and annotation inconsistency, leveraging transfer learning for high-accuracy malaria detection. Expected outcomes include a scalable, open-source dataset and model that aims to enhance diagnostic precision in resource-limited settings. A scalable, bias-aware CNN model trained on the standardized malaria dataset would also improve detection accuracy and provide a benchmark for AI-driven parasitology research. Preliminary results will be presented, with full analysis anticipated to validate performance across diverse epidemiological contexts.

College of Education and Community Innovation

- **Emma Kaiser, Special Education**
    - **Project Title:** Promoting Inclusion Through Evidence-Based Behavior Management: Effective Interventions for Students with ASD in General Education

  Emma completed a distinguished master's project during Summer, addressing a critical challenge in general education: the lack of training and resources for supporting students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which often leads to exclusionary practices such as restraint and suspension. Her project proposed a comprehensive framework that equips educators with evidence-based behavior management strategies in three key areas—preventing challenging behaviors, teaching alternative skills, and reinforcing positive behaviors. Emma also developed practical, classroom-ready resources to foster inclusive and equitable learning environments for students with autism. Her work stood out for its depth, originality, and extensive appendices that provide actionable tools for teachers. Grounded in research yet highly practical, Emma's project contributes meaningfully to the field and positions her as an emerging leader in education. Her dedication and commitment to student success make her highly deserving of recognition.

ABSTRACT

As diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) continue to rise, general education classrooms are increasingly responsible for meeting the needs of students with ASD. However, many teachers lack the training and resources necessary to manage challenging behaviors effectively. This knowledge gap often results in exclusionary practices such as restraint, seclusion, and suspension, which act as barriers to inclusion. The purpose of this project is to equip educators with evidence-based behavior management strategies that support inclusive practices. Drawing from current research, the project organizes effective interventions into three key categories: preventing challenging behaviors, teaching alternative skills, and reinforcing positive behaviors. Each category is paired with ready-to-use classroom resources specifically designed for general education settings. Ultimately, the project supports more inclusive, equitable classrooms where students with autism can thrive.

- **Kylie Brigham, Literacy Studies**
    - **Project Title:** Reimagining Read-Alouds: Fostering Critical Consciousness and Social Justice Through Children's Literature

  Kylie has distinguished herself through the completion of an outstanding master's project in EDR 693. Her work addresses a critical challenge in elementary education: the lack of training and confidence among teachers to use read-alouds as tools for fostering inclusion, empathy, and social awareness. In response, Kylie designed a yearlong professional development model for K–5 educators grounded in critical literacy and culturally responsive pedagogy. The plan includes sustained training, individualized coaching, and practical tools such as planning guides and curated book lists to help teachers integrate socially conscious literacy practices. Her project stands out for its depth, originality, and extensive resources that can be implemented in schools. Grounded in research yet highly practical, Kylie's work contributes meaningfully to the field and positions her as an emerging leader in literacy education. Her dedication and commitment to student success make her highly deserving of recognition.

ABSTRACT

During this era of heightened political and social divides, it is more important than ever to provide elementary students with inclusive and socially conscious literacy instruction. While classroom read-alouds have been long valued for their impact on literacy development, they are often underutilized as tools for fostering student identity, empathy, and social justice. This project, grounded in the frameworks of critical literacy, culturally responsive pedagogy, and Frierian theory, positions the read-aloud as a powerful entry point for critical and age-appropriate conversations about social issues, representation, and power. Research has shown that many educators lack the training, tools, and confidence to tackle these issues with their students. To address this gap, this project presents a yearlong professional development plan aimed at addressing K-5 teachers. The model presented offers the opportunity for sustained training, personalized coaching, and deep reflection aimed at improving the responsiveness of teacher practice. Additionally, it includes planning tools, book lists, and exercises designed to help teachers set goals in order to build more equitable, student-centered classroom communities. The application of these different tools and strategies ultimately aims to shift teacher practice in ways that enhance the learning experiences of all students.

- **Makayla Erdman, Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership**
    - **Project Title:** Experiences in Educational Leadership: My practicum in Grandville Public Schools

  Makayla Erdman has been a consistently exceptional graduate student in the Educational Specialist program in Educational Leadership. Her insightful contributions and thoughtful engagement have enriched class discussions, while her support for peers during debates, simulations, and projects has fostered a collaborative learning environment. Among the program's most ambitious students, she began this degree immediately after completing her master's. Her capstone project for EDL 770 demonstrated remarkable initiative, as she pursued a district-level practicum with Grandville Public Schools despite personal inconvenience. Under Superintendent Roger Bearup's mentorship, she gained firsthand experience in student services, instruction, HR, finance, and labor negotiations. Her reflections and artifacts showed strong alignment with national leadership standards and are now used as exemplary resources for future students. Superintendent Bearup praised her potential, noting she could become a great superintendent. Makayla exemplifies the qualities Grand Valley State University values most in its graduates.

ABSTRACT

In all successful organizations there must be a clear mission of what the organization is trying to accomplish, a vision of what exactly accomplishment looks like, and a plan to guide the organization's steps towards improvement in order to have consistent progress. In my internship at Grandville Public Schools, I have had the opportunity to observe decision making at various levels ranging from school level hiring and principals deciding how to implement professional development all the way to administrative teams approaching a grievance resolution process and school boards voting on bond issues. Throughout those decisions, the mission, vision, and improvement process have remained consistent throughout. Below, I have analyzed Grandville Public Schools' mission, vision, and values, through the lens of their continuous improvement process and resource utilization to provide an overview of how well they are implementing their strategic plan.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- **Hemna Vege, Communications**
    - **Project Title:** Colorism and the Commodification of Fairness in Indian Media

    Hemna's final project, *Colorism and the Commodification of Fairness in Indian Media*, exemplifies the kind of critical inquiry and problem-solving that defines outstanding communication scholarship. Her research investigates how fairness creams and their advertising campaigns shape beauty ideals in Indian society, using Frantz Fanon's postcolonial theory to argue that colonized populations often internalize white norms, leading to psychological distress and social alienation. By analyzing how these ads promote fair skin as a pathway to empowerment and acceptance, Hemna offers a nuanced critique of media messaging and cultural identity. Her work is both intellectually rigorous and socially relevant, positioning her at the forefront of communication research. With her drive, curiosity, and academic strength, Hemna is poised to make lasting contributions to the field.

ABSTRACT

This final project investigates the impact of fairness creams and advertising campaigns on the beauty standards prevalent in Indian culture. Brands such as Glow and Lovely propagate the notion that having a lighter skin translates to more confidence, a prospective marriage, and career success. In these campaigns, light skin is promoted as ideal, whereas darker skin is usually depicted as either unfortunate or restrictive. Emphasis is given to the fact that these advertising trends strengthen the existing prejudices and thus commodifying the color of skin. The project draws upon the concept of colonial psychology theory and the notion of whiteness as a standard, as elaborated by psychiatrist Frantz Fanon. The project analyzes fair advertising as an extension of colonial processes when whiteness is equated to beauty and modernity.

- **Kelsey Schulte, Cell and Molecular Biology**
    - **Project Title:** Evaluating a USP30 Inhibitor in a model of alpha-synucleinopathy

    During her internship at the Van Andel Institute, Kelsey worked under Dr. Alex Soto-Avellaneda in Dr. Michael Henderson's lab on a preclinical trial involving Parkinson's disease mouse models (PFF mice). Her project focused on evaluating candidate compounds for their potential to rescue dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra compacta. Kelsey quickly mastered advanced lab techniques such as brain tissue staining and quantitative analysis. Notably, she demonstrated exceptional initiative by identifying a flaw in the lab's cell segmentation pipeline and, after attending a workshop with the optical imaging core, successfully implemented a more sophisticated strategy. This improvement elevated the quality of her data and benefited the entire research team. Her mentor praised her diligence, curiosity, and meaningful scientific contributions throughout the internship.

ABSTRACT

Mitochondrial dysfunction is a major feature of Parkinson's disease. This dysfunction perpetuates production of ROS species and dopaminergic neuron cell death. Clearance of these dysfunctional mitochondria through mitophagy is inhibited by USP30, a deubiquitinating enzyme, in the PINK1/PARKIN dependent pathway. USP30 inhibitors are a promising therapeutic avenue to treat Parkinson's disease. Herein, we investigated if a USP30 inhibiting compound "VB" would have any rescue effects on dopaminergic neurons and α-synuclein pathology in a PFF injected mouse model. Mice were injected with pre-formed fibrils (PFF's) in the right side of the brain, then aged out to 3 and 6 months. Mice were then oral gavaged with either control, 30mg/kg, or 60 mg/kg of VB twice weekly. Brain tissue was collected, sectioned, and stained via immunofluorescence for tyrosine hydroxylase (TH), HuC/D, and p-SYN. Slides were imaged and analyzed. We found that VB had no effect on either dopaminergic neuron death or aggregate pathology. Further analysis is needed to determine if VB is targeting USP30 in vivo by using mitophagy specific stain TOMM20/LAMP1. Also, it would be prudent to investigate if VB is targeting peroxisome dysfunction (another hallmark of Parkinson's) in the PINK1/PARKIN independent pathway via Peroxispy probes and DAB staining.

GRADUATE SCHOOL CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION
Fall 2025

College of Computing

- **Michael Irungu and Pranitha Presingu, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**
    - **Publication Title:** Consumer Data Insights on Pharmacy Utilization: Comparative Study of 2015 and 2021 Surveys

Michael Irungu and Pranitha Presingu have demonstrated outstanding commitment to research, academic excellence, and professional leadership in health informatics and bioinformatics. They have co-authored multiple peer-reviewed publications addressing emerging issues in pharmacy practice, healthcare access, and informatics workforce development. Their manuscripts provide timely and actionable insights that help improve how patients receive care and how educational programs prepare the next generation of health technology professionals. Beyond writing and publishing, they are deeply engaged in the full research process, from conceptualization and study execution to scientific communication and revision. Their teamwork, perseverance, and talent have resulted in two accepted papers and two more in revision at respected journals. Both students have also been accepted to present their findings at AMIA, one of the most prestigious national conferences in the field. Pranitha and Michael exemplify exceptional student scholarship and are highly deserving of recognition for their productivity, professionalism, and future impact in health informatics.

ABSTRACT

Understanding the evolution of consumer behavior in pharmacy selection is crucial for delivering patient-centered and technology-driven healthcare. Objective: To identify factors influencing consumer pharmacy choice using the 2021 National Consumer Survey on the Medication Experience and Pharmacists' Roles (NCSME-PR) and to examine how these factors have evolved over time using 2015 data as a baseline. Methods: All variables were harmonized with the 2015 dataset to ensure comparability. Guided by the Andersen Behavioral Model, descriptive analyses and logistic regression were performed on 2021 survey data (N = 1,521) to evaluate factors influencing pharmacy selection, and results were compared with 2015 findings to assess evolving trends. Results: Younger adults (18–33) increasingly favored prescription-only pharmacies (OR=3.523), while older adults (70+) preferred mail-order pharmacies. Use of mail prescriptions rose by 11.7% and remained a strong predictor of mail pharmacy use (OR=30.29). Vaccination (+20%) and drive-thru utilization (+7.8%) increased substantially and were associated with chain pharmacies (OR = 1.404; OR = 2.500). In contrast, Traditional predictors such as education, financial hardship, OTC/herbal use, and medication side effects declined in relevance. Conclusion: Consumer preferences have shifted toward convenience-based and contactless pharmacy models, a trend that has continued beyond 2021. These changes highlight the need for pharmacists to adapt service delivery approaches and for health informatics professionals to strengthen digital infrastructure supporting patient-centered care.

College of Health Professions

- **Maisley Kreger, Speech-Language Pathology**
    - **Publication Title:** A Caregiver-Led Bibliotherapy Intervention to Improve Resilience in Children: Four Case Studies

  Maisley's first-authored manuscript, *A Caregiver-Led Bibliotherapy Intervention to Improve Resilience in Children: Four Case Studies*, showcases her innovative work designing a four-week intervention for young children with speech disorders. The program trained parents to guide their children through weekly readings, discussions, and activities, resulting in measurable improvements in resilience as assessed by the Children and Youth Resilience Measure. Accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*, the manuscript reflects Maisley's dedication to scholarly excellence, including her thoughtful revisions in response to reviewer feedback. Reviewers praised the study's relevance and potential impact, noting its contribution to counseling practices for children with speech-sound disorders and its emphasis on empowering families. Her work addresses a critical gap in the field and positions bibliotherapy as a promising tool for fostering resilience and motivation.

ABSTRACT

Purpose: Children with speech and language disorders may experience social and emotional challenges related to their difficulties with communication. This case study preliminarily investigates the effectiveness of a caregiver-led bibliotherapy intervention aimed at building resilience in children as a value-added component to speech therapy.

Method: Four children, aged 5-8 years old, enrolled in therapy for a speech sound disorder, piloted a four-week intervention led by their caregivers. Each child-caregiver dyad received a bibliotherapy kit, including four books and the materials to complete four follow-up activities at home. The child and caregiver participants completed pre- and post-intervention questionnaires to explore changes in the child's communication attitudes and resilience across the intervention.

Results: Each of the four child participants' resilience improved following the intervention based on self report. Discrepancies were found between the child's and the caregivers' perceptions of the child's resilience. Qualitative data gathered from the caregiver dyad provides examples of how the intervention positively impacted their child's behavior.

Conclusions: This study provides initial evidence that a caregiver-led bibliotherapy intervention can improve resilience in children with speech sound disorders. Further research is needed for more generalizable findings

Padnos College of Engineering

- **S M Faisal Rahman, Engineering**
    - **Publication Title:** Long-Term Performance Analysis and Predictive Modeling of a Solar Photovoltaic System

  Faisal Rahman excelled as a graduate student in the Fall 2024 EGR 580 course (now EGR 563), where he completed a rigorous semester project involving advanced modeling and analysis of photovoltaic panel data collected over a decade. Using MATLAB and Excel, he efficiently processed daily .csv files and conducted statistical evaluations of seasonal and annual output variations. He further developed a predictive model using the National Solar Radiation Database, demonstrating exceptional initiative and resourcefulness. Faisal's commitment extended beyond the course, as he refined his work into a well-researched paper with strong methodology and references. The paper was accepted for presentation and publication at the 2025 ASME IMECE conference, where Faisal will serve as first author. His performance exemplifies the high standards expected of graduate engineering students and positions him well for future academic pursuits.

ABSTRACT

This study presents a long-term performance analysis and predictive modeling of a rooftop photovoltaic (PV) system installed at Grand Valley State University, based on twelve years of measured operational data. The research aims to evaluate seasonal and inter-annual variations in system output and efficiency, while also assessing the accuracy of a deterministic irradiance-based prediction model. System performance was analyzed using National Solar Radiation Database (NSRDB) inputs and modeled using a linear irradiance-to-power relationship. Special focus was placed on comparing measured versus predicted energy outputs in the years 2010 and 2018, using root mean square error (RMSE) and relative RMSE as evaluation metrics.

The results indicate a clear seasonal pattern in both output and efficiency, with peak performance during summer months and reduced output during winter and shoulder months. A comparative analysis of system efficiency between 2010 and 2018 revealed lower efficiency in the latter year, particularly under low irradiance conditions. Monthly RMSE values further showed that the prediction model was more accurate during high-output periods and less reliable during winter, with relatively higher RMSE in several low-output months. Despite its simplified assumptions, the model enables year-over-year comparison and helps detect potential degradation in system performance. The integration of long-term monitoring and deterministic modeling offers valuable insights for system evaluation and contributes to the literature by addressing the need for extended empirical validation in PV performance studies.

GRADUATE SCHOOL CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OR PROFESSION
Fall 2025

College of Computing

- **Pranitha Presingu, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**

  Pranitha is a standout student whose compassion, professionalism, and leadership are evident through her extensive service and scholarly contributions. As a Dental and Community Health Volunteer at Exalta Health, she supports underserved populations with empathy, helping expand access to care in Grand Rapids. Her academic involvement includes serving as a Year-in-Review Research Collaborator with AMIA and reviewing posters for the ADEA Conference, contributing meaningfully to dental and health informatics. On campus, she promotes wellness through outreach events and actively supports local families through the Helping Hands Club. Pranitha's humility, integrity, and dedication make her a powerful example of service in both health informatics and the wider community.

College of Education and Community Innovation

- **Alexis Goff, Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership**

  Alexis has been a joy to work with during her time in the Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership program. She is a committed and engaged learner who enriches classroom discussions by connecting theory to her real-world experience. Her professional background includes impactful roles with organizations like the Girl Scouts of Michigan and Bethany Christian Services, as well as teaching in both public and private schools across grade levels. Whether in education or nonprofit work, Alexis consistently chooses roles that allow her to serve her community. She exemplifies the values of compassion, leadership, and service that the program strives to instill in its students and graduates.

- **Leslee Rohs, Public Administration**

  Leslee Rohs has been an outstanding student in the Master of Public Administration program, consistently contributing thoughtful insights and demonstrating excellence in coursework, presentations, and team projects. Her classroom engagement is enriched by a wide-ranging background in public service, including roles with philanthropic organizations like the Frey Foundation and her current position as senior program manager at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She has also worked in local economic development and with elected officials, always in roles that prioritize community impact. Leslee exemplifies the values of leadership, service, and civic responsibility that the MPA program strives to instill in its graduates.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- **Rajasree Tumula, Cell and Molecular Biology**

  Rajasree contributed to a beach monitoring project in the Laboratory for Molecular Monitoring for Health and the Environment, focusing on bacterial contamination in recreational waters—a key public health concern. She regularly assessed water quality in Barry County by measuring pH, turbidity, and E. coli levels, and applied qPCR techniques to detect species-specific Bacteroides markers for source tracking. Her analysis revealed elevated E. coli levels in Thornapple Lake and River, yet her molecular findings indicated the contamination was not from human or bovine sources. By integrating microbial and molecular methods, Rajasree's work helped pinpoint contamination origins and inform local water quality management efforts.

GRADUATE SCHOOL CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO GVSU
Fall 2025

College of Computing

- **Jyothsna Allu, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**

  Jyothsna has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service throughout her time at GVSU, leaving a meaningful impact on campus and beyond. She launched the Coffee Chat Series to connect students with healthcare IT professionals across Michigan. Her campus involvement includes volunteering with the Wellness Information Team and serving on the Health and Bioinformatics Journal Club board, where she fosters academic dialogue. At the PCE Advising Center, she supports undergraduates and trains new staff, while also mentoring incoming graduate students to promote inclusion and confidence. With a deep commitment to service, Jyothsna embodies the university's core values of leadership, collaboration, and community engagement.

College of Education and Community Innovation

- **Amy Phillips, Criminal Justice**

  Amy has distinguished herself as one of the most exceptional graduate students in the Criminal Justice program at GVSU, maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA while actively tutoring, working in the writing center, and contributing to the Bellamy Creek Program. Her research on embodiment in the criminal legal system, particularly her paper on incarcerated firefighters and prison labor, addresses a critical gap in the field and holds promise for groundbreaking impact. Amy's leadership is evident in her dedication to supporting fellow students, especially through her weekly work at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility. Her academic rigor, service, and commitment to justice reflect the highest values of the university and the discipline.

College of Health Professions

- **Chloe Comstock, Speech-Language Pathology**

  Chloe, a graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology program, has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and service. Her strengths in teamwork, communication, and value-driven collaboration have positively influenced both peers and faculty. She has taken initiative in coordinating multiple in-class projects and events, dedicating significant time to liaising with community partners and faculty across four universities. Her efforts included thorough documentation to ensure sustainability for future student cohorts. Chloe's professionalism, responsiveness, and use of effective communication tools—such as social media for event promotion—reflect skills often seen at the industry level. She is poised to thrive as both a compassionate provider and a leader in healthcare.

- **Casey Kreuser, Physician Assistant Studies**

  Casey has excelled both academically and as a leader in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program. Her dedication to learning and commitment to patient care are matched by her exceptional organizational and communication skills. As President of the Richard P. Clodfelter PA Student Society, she led with professionalism, inclusivity, and vision, managing a complex organization across two campuses. Under her leadership, the society achieved record-breaking fundraising, supported classmates through meaningful events, and contributed to local charities. Her ability to elevate others and maintain high standards has left a lasting impact. Casey is a deserving recipient of recognition for her outstanding leadership at GVSU.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- **Anna Lindeboom, Communications**

  Anna is a standout leader whose dedication to GVSU spans her time as both an undergraduate and graduate student in the Communications program. Her most notable achievement was revitalizing the Graduate Communication Association, transforming it into a thriving organization through strategic planning, leadership recruitment, and impactful programming. Anna consistently stepped up to organize writing workshops, advising events, and social gatherings, motivating peers and fostering community. Her service extended to the broader university through her work in the Office of the President, where she managed social media and created engaging content that strengthened campus connections. Now a part-time faculty member and full-time professional at Meijer, Anna continues to invest in GVSU, exemplifying the values of leadership, service, and collaboration this award celebrates.

GRADUATE SCHOOL CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT GVSU
Fall 2025

College of Health Professions

- **Johdinann Hartley Waclawski, Physician Assistant Studies**

  Johdinann has been a powerful advocate for inclusion and equity within the Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) Program and the broader GVSU community. As the student representative on the JEDI Committee, she has elevated student voices, fostered meaningful dialogue, and contributed to initiatives that promote inclusive curriculum and reflection on bias and health disparities. Her leadership is marked by empathy, courage, and a deep commitment to ensuring all students feel valued and heard. Beyond committee work, Johdinann actively creates space for underrepresented voices, uplifts her peers, and models respectful, open-minded conversation. Her ability to connect students and faculty has strengthened the PAS program's culture of belonging.

GRADUATE SCHOOL CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY
Fall 2025

College of Health Professions

- **Chloe Comstock, Speech-Language Pathology**

  Chloe has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service throughout her academic journey, first as an undergraduate and now as a graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology program. Her strengths in teamwork, communication, and collaboration have positively influenced both peers and faculty. Notably, she led the development of a sustainable system to support interprofessional education strategies, coordinating with over 20 faculty members across four universities. Her ability to organize, communicate, and execute this initiative within a short timeframe reflects her professionalism and initiative. The resulting product has been well received and continues to benefit faculty and future students alike.

JENNIFER ROSE PALM MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO GRADUATE EDUCATION

Fall 2025

The Graduate School

- **Sheri DeVries, The Graduate School**
    - **Nominated by**: Tracey James-Heer and other university members

  Sheri DeVries is widely recognized by colleagues for her unwavering dedication to graduate student success. Dr. Anthony Spencer describes Sheri as "always thinking of the students and how to help them succeed," noting her tireless work coordinating GA contracts and her kindness in everyday interactions. Dr. Neal Buckwalter highlights her patience and helpfulness in navigating complex administrative systems, calling her a vital part of the student support process. Sheri's role extends beyond administration. She is often seen managing events with a smile, having spent weeks preparing behind the scenes. Tracey James-Heer praises her professionalism and compassion, emphasizing her impact on the Graduate School's operations and student support programs. Dr. Greg Warsen adds, "Sheri handles myriad details with grace, poise, and excellence," embodying the spirit of service that the Jennifer Rose Palm Memorial Award honors. Sheri's empathy, reliability, and commitment make her an essential part of the graduate education community.

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION KIMBOKO INCLUSION AWARD

Fall 2025

College of Education and Community Innovation

- **Nagnon Diarrassouba, Literacy, Educational Foundations, & Technology**
  - **Nominated by:** Joy Zomer

  Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba has made a profound impact on students in the College of Education and Community Innovation through his inclusive teaching, mentorship, and unwavering support. Over the past two years, he has demonstrated exceptional dedication to student growth and well-being, particularly in preparing future educators to support multilingual learners. As an English learner himself, Dr. D brings authenticity, empathy, and humility to his instruction, fostering deeper understanding and connection. His thoughtful teaching strategies and personal encouragement extend beyond the classroom, creating a welcoming and empowering environment. From staying after class to offering snacks during long sessions, his kindness and commitment are evident. Dr. D exemplifies the values of equity, inclusion, and integrity that define the Kimboko Inclusion Award.

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING MENTORSHIP AWARD

Fall 2025

College of Computing

- **Suhila Sawesi, Health Informatics and Bioinformatics**
  - **Nominated by:** Jyothsna Allu, Michael Irungu, Pranitha Presingu, and Sarika Vemana

Dr. Sawesi is recognized for her exceptional mentorship and leadership in the MS in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics program. She consistently goes above and beyond to support students academically, professionally, and personally. Under her guidance, students have presented at Innovation Day, Student Scholars Day, and national conferences such as AMIA, and co-authored multiple research papers, including published work. Dr. Sawesi fosters intellectual independence, encourages confidence, and connects students with internships, scholarships, and networking opportunities, including HIMSS and MiHIN. Her mentorship extends beyond academics—providing compassion during personal challenges and inspiring students with life-changing advice. Despite her demanding role as Program Director, she remains accessible and dedicated, running initiatives like the Health Informatics Journal Club and creating spaces for collaboration and growth. Dr. Sawesi exemplifies integrity, excellence, and selfless commitment, making her highly deserving of recognition for her profound impact on graduate research and student success.

GRADUATE STUDENT PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Fall 2025

Hussey, Alyssa; Department of Biomedical Sciences;
Title: Can Consuming Red Beetroots Effectively Treat High Blood Pressure

Spring Summer 2025

Clark, Logan; Department of Biology – Aquatic Science;
Title: Brown Trout movement in the North Branch Au Sable River

DeLaFuente, Anna; Department of Biology;
Title: Effects of Prescribed Fire and Tree Girdling Treatments on Ground Layer Vegetation Recruitment and Ecosystem Structure in a Degraded Oak Savanna Ecosystem

Duarte, Camila; Department of Biomedical Sciences;
Title: Effects of Ketogenic Diet on Reproductive Health in Obese Mice

Eberly, Emily; Department of Biology – Aquatic Sciences;
Title: Multiple Indicator Assessment of the Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands

Forthaus, Grace; Department of Biology; Unraveling the Invasion:
Title: Genomic Insights into the Spread and Adaptation of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Eastern North America

Kuhlman, Josie; Department of Biology – Aquatic Sciences;
Title: Advancing beach monitoring by investigating the relationship between Escherichia coli concentrations in sand and water

Plummer, Addison; Department of Biology;
Title: The Fate and Transport of Mercury in the Grand River Watershed

Sweeney, Ava; Department of Biology;
Title: Eastern box turtles (Terrapene carolina carolina) in transition: The case for soft release

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Vice President: Ranjith Kumar Patil, Applied Computer Science

Finance Officer: Sai Ruthvik Uppala, Applied Computer Science

Communications Officer: Kwaku Boamah, Cybersecurity

Administration Officers: Cynthia Mutua, Data Science and Analytics

ADVISORS:

Dr. Matthew Christians, Cell and Molecular Biology
Dr. Sarah Nechuta, Public Health
Dr. Mohammad Didar Hossain, Social Work

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Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee Chair:
Dr. Mark Staves, Cell and Molecular Biology

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Erica Hamilton, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Distributed Learning and
Dean of The Graduate School

Jennifer Moore, Ph.D., Associate Dean

Trista Shumway, Director of Graduate Programming and Communication

Sheri DeVries, Administrative Assistant to the Vice Provost and
Dean of the Graduate School

Graduate Assistants:

Samsriti Satyal, Applied Computer Science
Peyton Goch, Social Work
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